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Foreign CROPS AND MARKETS



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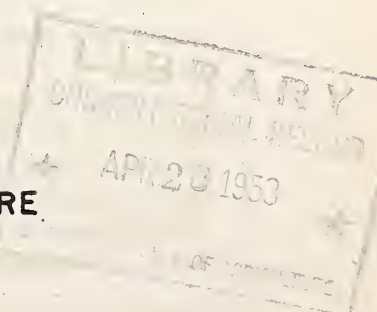
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE
WASHINGTON 25, D. C.



L A T E N E W S

The Minister of Finance in Egypt recently announced that results of the present government policies regarding cotton have been satisfactory and the policies will be continued during the 1953-54 year. It was pointed out, however, that the government desires to reduce losses now being sustained because fixed buying prices are higher than selling prices based on daily cotton futures quotations at New York. Lower production costs resulting from government-decreed reductions in land rent this year also are to be considered in any possible reduction in prices to be paid to cotton growers.

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FOREIGN CROPS AND MARKETS

Published weekly to inform producers, processors, distributors and consumers of farm products of current developments abroad in the crop and livestock industries, foreign trends in prices and consumption of farm products, and world agricultural trade. Circulation of this periodical is free to persons in the U.S. needing the information it contains in farming, business and professional operations. Issued by the Foreign Agricultural Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

WORLD APPLE AND PEAR PRODUCTION UP 1/

World production of apples (including cider apples) is estimated to total 676 million bushels in 1952-53 compared with 514 million bushels in 1951-52 and the prewar average of 498 million bushels. Excluding cider apples, the total for the current season is 455 million bushels against 424 million last year and the prewar average of 334 million bushels. Most of the increases this season occurred in Western Europe and in Japan which more than offset a sizable decrease in North America, primarily in Canada and the United States.

World pear production in 1952-53 shows an increase to 194 million bushels from 146 million in 1951-52 and the prewar average of 131 million bushels. Excluding cider pears, the current crop totals 154 million bushels compared with 127 million in 1951-52 and the prewar average of 103 million bushels. Increases over last year were quite general except in the Southern Hemisphere areas.

Both Canada and the United States had relatively small apple crops in 1952-53 compared with recent previous years and the prewar average, while the pear crops were slightly larger than in the last 2 years. The Canadian apple crop totaled 11.8 million bushels against 13.6 million in the previous year while the United States crop, estimated at 92.7 million, was the smallest since 1948. Unfavorable weather at blossoming time and drought in many areas during the summer months contributed most to the smaller output this season in the central and eastern portions of North America. The western states and British Columbia showed some improvement in production over 1951-52.

Increased apple production was quite general in Western Europe in 1952-53, resulting largely from favorable weather and alternate bearing characteristics of the orchards. Only Finland, Norway, the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia show smaller crops. The total for Western Europe as a whole is estimated at 471 million bushels compared with 302 million in 1951-52 and the prewar average of 289 million bushels. Although information is not complete for all countries, the production of apples excluding cider apples for Western Europe is indicated at 249 million bushels against 212 million the previous year and the prewar average of 126 million.

Because of a sharp increase in apple production in Japan, the total for Asia rose from 18 million to 31 million bushels between 1951 and 1952. This is about double the prewar average of 16 million bushels.

In South America the current crop is up slightly while in Oceania it is down slightly from a year earlier.

The pear crop for North America, estimated at around 33 million bushels shows little change from the previous year's output. There was a slight decrease in Canada but slight increases in Mexico and the United States.

1/ A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular by the Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

APPLES: Production in specified countries
averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1949-52

Continent and country	Average		1949	1950	1951	1952 1/
	1935-39	1945-49				
	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
NORTH AMERICA						
Canada	14,560	14,818	18,151	16,166	13,613	11,783
Mexico	1,231	2,029	2,151	2,170	2,337	2,434
United States	127,311	104,279	133,742	124,488	110,660	92,696
Total	143,102	121,126	154,044	142,824	126,610	106,913
EUROPE						
Austria:						
Dessert and cooking	7,095	8,008	9,645	9,645	8,956	10,159
Cider	6,291	7,101	3,215	6,889	3,445	4,933
Belgium and Luxembourg	5,721	9,129	19,002	14,553	14,294	14,528
Denmark	2,818	7,303	6,889	13,779	8,267	8,956
Finland	1,008	546	367	184	666	446
France:						
Dessert and cooking	10,499	13,630	16,796	18,934	14,022	18,761
Cider	153,973	71,444	118,118	216,112	82,843	211,926
Germany:						
Western Zone	36,116	37,890	41,700	79,200	49,200	62,000
Greece	374	1,203	1,539	1,240	1,323	1,727
Italy	12,923	19,849	31,296	24,294	38,419	42,713
Netherlands	3,631	9,452	19,474	12,681	16,268	18,188
Norway	1,080	1,073	717	2,704	1,939	1,837
Spain	5,411	5,859	6,675	4,549	5,052	7,349
Sweden	4,770	6,164	7,762	9,691	6,889	8,405
Switzerland	16,452	20,300	11,942	30,313	10,564	25,261
United Kingdom:						
Dessert and cooking	10,597	19,705	24,005	20,911	27,921	23,791
Cider	3,427	4,078	5,026	5,119	3,967	4,293
Yugoslavia	7,098	7,490	7,865	4,700	8,239	5,282
Total above	289,284	250,224	332,033	475,458	302,274	470,555
Total above (excl. cider)	125,593	167,601	205,674	247,378	212,019	249,403
Total other Europe 2/	32,436	32,895	37,047	42,350	36,060	36,600
Total Europe	321,720	283,119	369,080	517,848	338,334	507,155
ASIA						
Israel	65	244	291	138	64	78
Lebanon	3/ 104	597	551	597	781	781
Syria	4/ 252	230	299	299	207	82
Turkey	5,149	3,907	5,248	6,400	4,082	4,271
Japan	7,624	8,883	16,659	20,130	12,106	25,077
Korea	3,220	4,910	2,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
Total	16,162	18,793	24,979	28,564	18,240	31,289
SOUTH AMERICA						
Argentina	1,400	7,732	9,800	14,200	14,500	15,000
Chile	1,025	806	852	902	1,105	1,496
Total	2,425	8,538	10,652	15,102	15,605	16,496
AFRICA						
Tunisia	115	168	138	138	140	140
Union of South Africa	1,142	1,180	1,499	1,499	1,750	1,800
Total	1,257	1,348	1,637	1,637	1,890	1,940
OCEANIA						
Australia	10,435	11,478	9,225	9,711	10,743	9,760
New Zealand	2,875	2,794	3,044	2,954	3,015	2,745
Total	13,310	14,272	12,269	12,665	13,758	12,505
World total	497,976	447,196	572,661	718,640	514,137	676,298
World total (excluding cider)	334,285	364,573	446,302	490,520	424,182	455,116

Estimates in original units of approximately 1 bushel in the following countries: Australia, Canada, United States, New Zealand, and South Africa. In other countries original estimates, mostly in metric tons, converted to bushels of 48 pounds except Argentina and Chile in 44 pound boxes. 1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Rumania and Germany (Eastern Zone). 3/ Includes Syria. 4/ Included with Lebanon.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information, and on the basis of postwar boundaries. Harvests in Northern Hemisphere countries are for the year shown and are combined with the harvest in Southern Hemisphere countries of the following year.

FEARS: Production in specified countries
averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1949-52

Continent and country	Average		1949	1950	1951	1952 1/
	1935-39	1945-49				
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels	bushels
NORTH AMERICA						
Canada	569	873	1,058	864	1,225	1,047
Mexico	331	596	631	639	684	728
United States	28,693	33,108	36,404	29,312	30,028	30,744
Total	29,593	34,577	38,093	30,815	31,937	32,519
EUROPE						
Austria:						
Dessert and cooking	950	1,380	1,102	1,764	1,323	1,825
Cider	5,416	5,885	7,055	7,495	6,614	6,561
Belgium and Luxembourg	2,126	5,204	11,403	6,065	4,694	11,511
Denmark	480	855	1,032	1,019	1,056	1,100
France:						
Dessert and cooking	1,760	5,447	6,584	6,295	5,409	6,076
Cider	21,776	11,165	18,459	33,774	12,947	33,120
Germany:						
Western Zone	11,891	13,370	18,000	25,750	11,730	23,600
Greece	878	1,220	1,675	838	1,393	1,530
Italy	8,482	11,243	15,134	13,357	16,060	17,501
Netherlands	1,570	5,582	6,790	5,384	5,840	8,730
Norway	174	194	103	445	277	291
Spain	3,057	2,609	3,006	2,469	2,866	3,197
Sweden	1,063	1,102	1,852	1,808	1,323	1,323
Switzerland	7,037	11,728	9,700	17,637	6,611	8,818
United Kingdom:						
Dessert and cooking	782	1,492	1,770	1,008	1,384	1,998
Cider	237	272	224	90	94	318
Yugoslavia	2,773	3,050	2,798	1,821	4,698	3,527
Total above	70,452	81,798	106,687	127,019	84,322	131,026
Total above (excl. cider)	43,023	64,476	80,949	85,660	64,667	91,027
Total other Europe 2/	12,710	11,723	13,704	15,100	11,530	12,800
Total Europe	83,162	93,521	120,391	142,119	95,852	143,826
ASIA						
Israel	16	17	18	21	25	50
Lebanon	3/ 24	263	146	146	154	154
Syria	4/ 66	66	101	88	62	40
Turkey	3,466	2,992	4,461	3,292	3,552	2,368
Japan	7,366	2,644	3,067	3,347	3,578	4,780
Korea	775	667	900	500	500	500
Total	11,647	6,649	8,693	7,394	7,871	7,892
SOUTH AMERICA						
Argentina	2,443	4,975	4,630	6,060	5,780	5,500
Chile	88	103	100	110	149	135
Total	2,531	5,078	4,730	6,170	5,929	5,635
AFRICA						
Tunisia	53	53	44	44	45	40
Union of South Africa	832	676	1,038	636	848	600
Total	885	729	1,082	680	893	640
OCEANIA						
Australia	2,467	3,059	2,861	3,549	3,534	2,953
New Zealand	328	371	406	526	379	437
Total	2,795	3,430	3,267	4,075	3,913	3,390
World total	130,613	143,984	176,256	191,253	146,395	193,902
World total (excluding cider)	103,184	126,662	150,518	149,894	126,740	153,903

Estimates in original units of approximately 1 bushel in the following countries: Australia, Canada, United States, New Zealand, and South Africa. In other countries original estimates, mostly in metric tons, converted to bushels of 50 pounds except Argentina and Chile in 44 pound boxes. 1/ Preliminary. 2/ Includes Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Poland, Rumania and Germany (Eastern Zone). 3/ Includes Syria. 4/ Included with Lebanon.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of U.S. Foreign Service officers, results of office research and other information, and on the basis of postwar boundaries. Harvests in Northern Hemisphere countries are for the year shown and are combined with the harvest in Southern Hemisphere countries of the following year.

In Western Europe production of pears (including cider pears) is estimated at 131 million bushels compared with 84 million last year and the prewar average of 70 million bushels. As in the case of apples, the increase output of pears this season was quite general. Excluding cider pears the total is 91 million bushels or almost double the prewar average and the largest crop in a number of years.

Not much change in pear production is indicated for Asia this season compared with that of recent years but in South America and Oceania the crop is down slightly from last year's.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled articles on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service's Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

WORLD EGG PRODUCTION IN 1952: CURRENT CHICKEN NUMBERS 1/

Slightly more eggs were produced in 1952 in the principal producing countries as a group than in 1951. Production in 1951 had dropped some from 1950 when output in many countries had climbed to a postwar peak. The adverse relationship between feed prices and eggs that was in prospect for the 1951 season eased somewhat as the 1952 season approached. By the end of 1952 feed prices had declined further and egg prices had strengthened and producers have tended to take steps to expand output in 1953.

Only small changes have occurred in chicken numbers in the principal countries in the past year except in the Philippines and Japan where numbers have been expanding. The declines in the United States and France, while small relatively, were in the absolute large in relation to changes in other countries.

The impetus given to poultry meat production in many countries, especially in Western Europe has slackened somewhat with red meat supplies somewhat greater and prices correspondingly lower.

The changes that may occur in 1953 in the world egg situation will hinge somewhat upon the derationing of eggs in the United Kingdom at the end of March 1953. The anticipation of this move and the attempt to adjust to the new situation will affect the egg industry in Ireland, Denmark and the Netherlands as well as in the United Kingdom.

In Denmark, ample supplies of coarse grains at lower prices and at the same time unchanged prices for eggs to the United Kingdom for the 1952-53 season should make egg production more profitable than the past two seasons. The abolishing of feed rationing in the Netherlands in the spring of 1953 and the anticipation of this move is expected to bring an increase in egg production. As the hatching season has been greatly advanced in that country, increased supplies of summer and fall eggs in 1953 are expected.

1/ A more extensive statement will be published soon as a Foreign Agricultural Circular available from the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

EGGS: Number produced 1/ in specified countries, averages
1934-38, 1946-50; annual 1950-1952

Continent and Country	Average 1934-38 Million	Average 1946-50 Million	1950 Million	1951 Million	1952 Million
NORTH AMERICA					
Canada - Farm	2,638	4,015	3,662	3,611	4,112
Total	2,863	4,382	4,003	3,954	4,486
United States - Farm	35,498	56,535	60,046	59,265	61,016
Cuba	320	300	320	—	—
Dominican Republic	—	60	60	—	—
Panama	—	2/ 53	—	55	—
EUROPE					
Austria	663	369	540	640	700
Belgium	1,693	1,584	2,100	1,945	2,030
Denmark	1,979	1,447	2,128	1,962	1,968
Finland	317	194	317	—	—
France	6,200	6,580	7,500	7,500	7,000
Germany, Western	3,700	2,655	4,100	4,900	5,700
Greece	550	388	440	440	490
Ireland	1,086	893	1,073	—	—
Italy	5,500	4,380	5,000	—	—
Luxembourg	40	3/ 36	40	—	—
Netherlands	1,978	1,139	1,775	2,075	2,570
Norway	369	283	459	391	408
Portugal	250	—	—	—	—
Spain	1,700	3/ 1,878	1,920	—	—
Sweden	1,000	1,288	1,407	1,390	1,407
Switzerland	423	486	520	529	527
United Kingdom-Farm 4/	2/ 3,871	2,880	—	4,800	4,700
Total 4/	2/ 5,098	4,590	5,800	6,500	6,300
Yugoslavia	1,000	—	1,040	1,006	945
ASIA					
Lebanon	—	52	45	—	—
Palestine	108	—	—	—	360
Syria	92	96	90	—	—
Turkey	1,003	859	856	—	—
Japan	3,553	970	1,568	3,873	4,691
India	—	—	1,082	—	—
Pakistan	—	571	—	—	—
Philippine Republic	5/ 738	567	764	845	950
SOUTH AMERICA					
Argentina	1,127	—	2,750	3,000	3,000
Chile	—	430	400	—	—
Paraguay	—	3/ 113	120	—	—
Uruguay	289	323	300	—	—
AFRICA					
Egypt	751	—	—	—	—
French Morocco	1,000	—	—	500	—
Union of South Africa 6/	—	—	840	960	—
OCEANIA					
Australia 7/	708	1,418	1,388	1,288	1,224
New Zealand	430	8/ 146	8/ 170	8/ 180	—

1/Relates to farm production in the United States but many countries not explicit on this point 2/Three-year average. 3/ Four-year average. 4/ Years ending May. 5/ 1938. 6/ Years ending June. 7/ Commercial production for years ending June 30. 8/ Receipts at Marketing Department Stations, year ending March, which account for 30-40% of total production.

CHICKENS: Numbers in specified countries, averages
1934-38, 1946-50; annual 1950-1952, preliminary 1953

	Date	Applicable	Average	Average				Preliminary
		1/	1934-38	1946-50	1950	1951	1952	1953
			Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
NORTH AMERICA								
Canada	Dec. 1		44,077	45,245	39,319	34,277	42,717	38,500
United States	Jan. 1		408,177	465,503	456,549	442,657	449,925	431,410
Mexico	March	2/	36,368	—	—	—	—	—
Cuba	July		—	9,400	9,000	8,500	—	—
Dominican Republic	June 30		2,358	3/ 1,952	1,856	1,854	—	—
Panama		4/	195	4/ 1,425	1,400	—	—	—
EUROPE								
Austria	Dec. 3	4/	8,862	5,640	6,100	7,700	8,200	—
Belgium	Dec. 31		16,500	14,069	16,300	16,500	15,000	15,000
Denmark	July	4/	27,643	22,030	24,548	22,250	23,411	—
Finland 5/	Sept. 1		2,853	2,036	2,880	—	—	—
France	Fall	6/	145,000	—	75,000	7/ 75,000	7/ 70,000	—
Germany, Western	Dec.		51,225	—	39,957	48,064	50,676	51,246
Greece 3/	Nov. 30		11,679	8,366	9,700	8,991	10,010	11,800
Ireland	June		15,961	16,677	17,983	15,951	—	—
Italy	Dec.		76,000	—	—	62,500	—	—
Luxembourg	Dec.	4/	515	361	400	—	—	—
Netherlands	Dec.	8/	29,632	7,864	10,584	15,676	15,816	15,709
Norway	June 20		5,686	4,617	4,985	4,689	—	4,887
Portugal	Dec. 31	9/	5,716	—	—	—	12,500	—
Spain		10/	28,972	4/ 32,042	—	—	—	—
Sweden	11/		10,980	12,467	12,061	11,766	11,091	—
Switzerland	April	9/	5,544	5,674	6,300	6,238	6,260	6,260
United Kingdom-Farm	June		73,402	77,153	90,789	90,067	89,822	—
Yugoslavia	Jan.		18,021	—	17,621	15,100	17,750	—
ASIA								
Lebanon	Dec.		—	1,167	994	—	—	—
Syria			1,525	2,204	2,482	—	—	—
Turkey			16,794	18,811	20,222	—	—	—
China	12/		265,765	4/ 194,550	—	—	—	—
Japan	July		51,094	17,192	16,545	21,845	30,273	—
India			—	—	62,600	62,200	65,600	—
Philippine Republic	Dec. 31		25,365	15,766	25,235	28,055	32,090	38,000
SOUTH AMERICA								
Argentina	June	13/	42,988	—	47,500	—	60,000	—
Brazil		13/	59,000	—	—	—	—	—
Chile 14/	June	4/	1,026	5,100	—	—	—	—
Paraguay	12/		—	2,200	—	—	—	—
Peru			—	—	9,500	—	—	—
Uruguay	15/		4,814	4,475	—	—	—	—
AFRICA								
Egypt	July	9/	26,889	—	—	—	—	—
French Morocco		4/	50,000	—	—	—	—	—
Union of So. Africa 5/	Aug.		14,000	15,720	16,000	—	—	—
OCEANIA								
Australia	Dec. 31		15,541	—	—	—	—	—
New Zealand	March	9/	3,489	—	4,600	—	—	—

1/ Year end estimates (October-December) shown under following year for comparison. Thus for Canada, the December 1, 1952 estimate is shown under 1953. 2/ 1940. 3/ All poultry. 4/ Average 2-4 years only. 5/ Adult poultry. 6/ Represents chickens raised. 7/ Laying hens. 8/ June. 9/ 1936. 10/ 1939. 11/ Sept. 1937, June 1946-1949, April 1950-52, census estimates includes layers and chicks. 12/ Month of estimate not available. 13/ 1937. 14/ Hens and pullets. 15/ August.

A poor cereal harvest in France for the 1951-52 season was largely responsible for a drop in 1952 egg and poultry production. Some recovery is expected in 1953. In Western Germany the poultry feed supply situation was satisfactory in 1952, and reduced prices, together with higher egg prices resulted in a more favorable egg-feed price relationship. The output of both poultry and eggs in Western Germany in 1952 surpassed prewar levels.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports of world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U.S. Foreign Service reports.

WORLD CATTLE NUMBERS CONTINUE TO INCREASE 1/

World cattle numbers at the beginning of 1953 are estimated at a new record level of 845 million head by the Foreign Agricultural Service of the United States Department of Agriculture. This is an increase of 2 percent over numbers at the beginning of 1952 and 14 percent above the 1936-40 average of 743 million head. World cattle numbers have increased every year since the end of World War II and, barring a major natural disaster in some of the more important areas, numbers are likely to increase again in 1953.

Strong demand for beef and veal, and the relatively more favorable returns from beef cattle in recent years encouraged cattle growers in most areas to continue their expansion into 1952. Free market prices had held firm in the United States and Canada until early 1952 and those countries producing beef and veal for export under contract were either assured or anticipating an increase in price, when breeding and feeding plans were made for the year.

Although economic and weather conditions and the feed situation differ in various countries, totals by continents show an increase for 1953 over 1952 in all but Oceania, and the decrease in that area was minor. Expansion was limited in some countries by competition with sheep, in others by demands for more arable lands for grain crops and in Western Europe by disease (foot-and-mouth) losses.

The most pronounced build-up in cattle numbers in the postwar period has occurred in Africa, 47 percent over prewar, North America 33 percent, South America 32 percent and Oceania 11 percent. Eastern Europe and U.S.S.R. are still below prewar, Western Europe reached prewar totals in 1951 and is estimated about 2 percent above prewar in 1953. Numbers in Asia are placed 2 percent above the 1936-40 average.

1/ A more extensive statement will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular by the Foreign Agricultural Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture Washington 25, D. C.

CATILB: Number in specified countries, averages 1936-40 and 1946-50, annual 1948-1953

Continent and country	Month of estimate	Average		1948	1949	1950	1951	1952 2/	1953 2/
		Thousands	Thousands						
NORTH AMERICA									
Canada.....	Dec. 1 1/	8,246	8,883	8,944	8,251	8,243	8,290	7,936	8,906
Costa Rica.....	366 3/	556	506	606	-	685	-	-	-
El Salvador.....	680 3/	700	765	-	-	825	-	-	-
Guatemala.....	520 3/	900	901	903	-	-	-	-	-
Honduras.....	524 3/	1,000	945	950	1,000	950	-	1,100	-
Mexico.....	Dec. 31 1/ 3/4/	11,716	13,530	13,514	15,000	14,500	14,700	14,700	14,500
Nicaragua.....	3/ 3/	800	1,235	1,200	-	1,275	1,275	1,250	-
Panama.....	434 3/	567	567	567	-	-	577	-	600
United States.....	Jan. 1	66,706	78,951	77,171	76,830	77,963	82,025	87,844	93,696
Cuba.....	Dec. 31 1/	5,024	4,500	4,400	4,500	4,550	4,600	4,500	-
Dominican Republic.....	3/ 3/	885	887	-	-	887	857	860	-
Estimated total.....		96,700	112,600	110,700	111,500	112,200	116,700	122,100	128,700
EUROPE									
Austria.....	Dec. 1 1/ 3/	2,600	2,173	2,158	2,109	2,203	2,460	2,400	2,450
Belgium.....	Jan. 1 1/	1,724	1,674	1,588	1,688	1,902	2,020	2,127	2,155
Denmark.....	Dec. 31 1/	3,108	2,881	2,668	2,751	2,886	2,974	2,932	2,953
Finland.....	Mar. 1 7/	1,850	1,598	1,452	1,542	1,611	-	-	-
France.....	Fall 1/	15,504	15,067	15,125	15,434	15,404	15,808	16,240	16,194
Germany, Western.....	Dec. 1 1/ 3/	12,114	10,831	10,291	10,569	10,883	11,148	11,375	11,641
Greece g/.....	Dec. 31 1/ 5/	1,278	742	752	732	732	809	915	956
Ireland.....	June	4,021	4,093	3,921	4,127	4,322	4,376	4,309	-
Italy.....	Jan. 1	8,550	7,400	7,263	7,834	8,162	8,331	-	8,400
Luxembourg.....	Dec. 1 1/ 3/	108	114	114	111	118	118	120	120
Netherlands.....	May	2,693	2,471	2,313	2,540	2,723	2,863	2,858	-
Norway.....	June 20	1,390	1,226	1,175	1,224	1,237	1,231	1,152	1,170
Portugal.....	Dec. 31 1/ 9/	905	975	1,000	-	-	930	-	930
Spain.....	Dec. 31 1/ 5/	3,739	3,950	4,000	-	-	-	4,200	-
Sweden.....	Summer	2,959	2,705	2,625	2,584	2,648	2,633	2,532	-
Switzerland.....	April	1,663	1,471	1,424	1,478	1,530	1,607	1,682	-
United Kingdom.....	June	8,798	9,973	9,806	10,244	10,620	10,473	10,244	-
Yugoslavia g/.....	Jan. 1 1/	4,181	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total above.....		77,200	73,300	71,700	74,200	76,300	77,800	78,400	79,000
Other Europe.....		26,000	20,200	19,300	20,400	21,800	22,600	23,200	23,100
Estimated total.....		103,200	93,500	91,000	94,600	98,100	100,400	101,600	102,100
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia).									
	Jan. 1 5/	59,800	50,800	50,000	54,000	56,000	57,200	58,800	-
ASIA									
Iran.....	March	2,797	2,700	2,500	2,510	3,500	3,600	-	-
Turkey g/.....	Dec. 31 1/	8,611	10,826	10,748	11,116	11,001	11,051	-	-
Burma g/.....	Dec. 31 1/	6,165	5,030	5,209	-	-	-	5,350	5,540
Ceylon g/.....	Dec. 31 1/	1,625	1,732	1,740	1,792	1,905	1,628	1,680	-
China 10/.....	May	25,000	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
India g/.....	Jan. 1 5/	180,000	178,200	-	-	181,500	-	193,200	-
Indonesia g/.....	Dec. 31 1/	7,669	6,330	-	-	6,370	6,500	6,830	7,574
Japan.....	Feb. 1 1/	1,798	2,167	2,103	2,294	2,450	2,460	2,670	-
Korea, South.....	Dec. 31 1/ 2/	922	646	643	684	699	393	572	-

ASIA (Continued)

Philippine Islands 8/.....	Jan. 1	4,340	2,340	2,329	2,477	2,601	3,058	3,249	3,460
Taiwan (Formosa) 8/.....	Dec. 31 1/	354	307	298	310	357	381	394	-
Thailand 8/.....	Mar. 31	11,303	7,775	-	8,000	7,000	-	6,330	6,490
Pakistan 8/.....	Jan. 1	33,000 5/	30,000	30,000	-	-	-	29,049	-
Estimated total 11/.....		295,700	282,100	280,600	283,100	285,800	288,500	298,700	302,400

SOUTH AMERICA

Argentina.....	July	33,762	41,150	43,000	42,000	39,000	38,000	39,000	41,000
Bolivia.....	5/	1,842	1,493	-	-	1,493	-	1,650	-
Brazil.....	5/	40,807	46,200	46,000	46,250	-	52,655 1/	-	55,000
Chile.....	June	2,489	2,345	2,324	2,344	2,331	2,186	-	-
Colombia.....	Dec. 31 1/3/	8,010	14,148	13,893	14,538	15,513	15,512	-	-
Paraguay.....	Dec. 31 1/3/	3,259	3,890	-	4,087	3,865	3,763	3,857	-
Peru.....	5/	8,297	2,790	2,662	2,883	2,824	3,100	-	-
Uruguay.....	May	7,875	-	-	-	-	8,154 1/	8,000 1/	8,000
Estimated total.....		105,500	126,500	127,900	128,900	128,400	132,100	135,000	138,800

AFRICA

Algeria 12/.....	April	841	759	698	747	765	810	-	-
Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.....	3/	2,700	3,350	-	-	-	-	-	-
Kenya.....	3/	5,239	5,150	5,589	5,612	5,550	5,650	-	-
Tanganyika.....	Dec. 31 1/	5,000	6,324	6,370	6,425	-	6,113	-	-
Uganda.....	Mar. 31	2,466	2,464	2,485	-	2,525	2,714	-	-
Basutoland.....	February	437	430	-	431	-	401	-	-
Egypt 8/.....	June	2,021	3,036	-	3,185	3,366	3,408	-	-
Ethiopia.....	Dec. 31 1/	1,970	1,652	1,326	1,549	1,762	1,942	2,027	20,000
French Morocco 12/.....	Dec. 31 1/	5,172	5,700	5,737	5,603	5,412	5,641	5,892	1,975
Madagascar 12/.....	Dec. 31 1/	548	632	631	659	700	738	773	-
Mozambique.....	5/	2,306	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Angola.....	Dec. 31 1/	2,340	2,878	2,748	2,822	3,004	2,981	2,964	-
Southern Rhodesia.....	Dec. 31 1/	259	255	250	279	291	-	-	-
Spanish Morocco.....	Dec. 31 1/	494	394	368	340	359	395	-	-
Tunisia 12/.....	August	11,636	12,285	12,470	12,242	11,513	-	-	-
Union of South Africa.....		64,400	84,900	85,700	86,900	87,400	90,300	92,700	94,600
Estimated total.....									

OCEANIA

Australia.....	Mar. 31 1/	13,285	13,971	13,785	14,124	14,640	15,228	14,893	14,400
New Zealand.....	Jan. 31	4,449	4,738	4,716	4,723	4,949	5,060	5,158	5,259
Estimated total.....		18,100	19,100	18,900	19,200	20,000	20,700	20,500	20,100

Estimated world total..... : 743,400 : 769,500 : 764,800 : 778,200 : 787,900 : 805,900 : 829,400 : 845,200

1/ End of year estimates (October to December) included under following year for comparisons and totals. Thus for Canada the December 1947 estimate of 8,944,000 is shown under 1948. 2/ Preliminary. 3/ Average for 2 to 4 years only. 4/ June. 5/ Census or estimates for single year. 6/ Official statistics; may be underestimates of actual numbers. 7/ September. 8/ Data include buffaloes. 9/ Census, December 31, 1934. 10/ Includes China Proper (22 provinces), Manchuria, Jehol, and Sinkiang (Turkestan). 11/ Includes estimates for Outer Mongolia. 12/ Data include only number taxed.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of the United States Foreign Service officers, and other information. Data for countries having changed boundaries relate to present territory, unless otherwise noted. Totals includes estimates for countries for which official statistics are unavailable.

For 1953, further expansion in cattle is anticipated in North America. United States numbers are now at a record high but the upswing is expected to continue into 1953 in spite of lower prices. Canadian numbers are at the build-up stage of their cycle and numbers in Mexico are expected to increase, weather permitting.

Argentine numbers are building up again and with the impetus of a fairly favorable contract with the United Kingdom should recover to the levels reached prior to the drought of 1949-50. In Uruguay, as is true to some extent in other livestock producing countries, competition from sheep raising is keen. Ranges in that country are completely stocked and cattle will do well to maintain present numbers in the face of the favorable outlook for wool.

In New Zealand and Australia conditions are favorable for further increase, breeding herds have been built up, new contracts with the United Kingdom for beef have recognized increased cost of production and drought conditions have ended in Australia.

As the demand for meat continues strong in Europe and as it appears that the foot-and-mouth disease has abated somewhat, some recovery in cattle numbers is expected there in 1953.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Foreign Agricultural Service Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. It is based in part upon U. S. Foreign Service reports.

REVIEW OF THE 1952-53 WORLD CORN CROP

World corn production in 1952-53 is estimated at 5,600 million bushels, on the basis of the latest information available to the Foreign Agricultural Service. This is about 30 million bushels more than the previous estimate published in Foreign Crops and Markets, February 9, 1953. The increase over the earlier estimate is principally in South America, where the outlook for the crop in Argentina is somewhat better than was forecast earlier. The current crop is 350 million bushels larger than the 1951-52 total and is second only to the record outturn of 5,995 million bushels in 1943.

Supplies of corn available for export from the principal exporting countries appear larger than they were a year earlier. The Argentine harvest, now beginning, is forecast about double the small outturn of a year ago. Stocks remaining from that small crop are negligible, but exportable supplies from the new crop appear likely to be about 75 million bushels. Though somewhat below the prewar level of exports, a movement of that volume would be the largest of recent years, contrasting with an estimate of about 28 million bushels for the season ending March 1953 and less than 20 million bushels for each of the 2 preceding seasons.

Supplies of corn in the United States at the beginning of the season, October 1952, were 158 million bushels larger than supplies a year earlier, since the large crop more than offset a decline of about 250 million bushels in carryover stocks. Of the beginning supply of 3.797 million bushels, about 125 million bushels of corn may be exported during the current season. This is somewhat above the exports of about 75 million bushels last season. Increased corn exports are expected to compensate for reduced supplies of grain sorghums for export. Total exports of sorghum grains were about 62 million bushels last season.

The outturn in North America is estimated at 3,517 million bushels, an increase of 13 percent over the 1951 harvest and 44 percent over the prewar level (1935-39). The bulk of the corn is grown in the United States, where the 1952 production represents approximately 60 percent of the estimated world total. That is the second largest crop ever produced in this country. Near-record yields account for the good outturn, with the harvested acreage the second smallest of record.

Total corn production in Europe is estimated at 475 million bushels, compared with the near-average harvest of 690 million in 1951. Reductions from the 1951 level were principally in the important producing Danube Basin area, where severe drought made sharp reductions in late-summer crops. The outturn was also smaller in Italy, the other important corn producer in Europe.

The corn harvest in the Soviet Union was indicated to be above that of 1951, though still not up to the prewar average of 170 million bushels. The reduction from the prewar level is attributed to reduced acreage.

Production in Asia is now estimated at 700 million bushels, a near-record harvest for the area, contrasting with the 1951 crop of 670 million and the prewar average of 620 million. The acreage planted to corn was the largest of recent years and well above the prewar level.

The production in Africa is estimated at 270 million bushels. This is above average though not up to the 1950 total of 290 million bushels. Acreage was well above average.

The harvest now getting under way in South America is forecast at 480 million bushels, an increase of 40 million over the previous estimate. That increase is due to improved prospects for Argentina, where the crop is now forecast at 160 million bushels, contrasted with 80 million a year ago and 105 million in 1951-52. The current crop would still be sharply below the prewar average of 302 million bushels.

Corn production is of little significance in Australia, and the current outlook is for an outturn of about 5 million bushels. Acreage is about the same as that of a year ago and prospects are for better yields than those of a year ago.

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(Table on following page)

CORN: Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified countries, year of harvest, averages 1935-39 and 1945-49, annual 1950-1952 1/

Continent and country	Acres 2/			Yield per acre 3/			Production		
	Average			Average			Average		
	1935-39	1945-49	1950	1935-39	1945-49	1950	1935-39	1945-49	1950
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Bushels	Bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
NORTH AMERICA									
Canada.....	172	238	306	334	40.8	45.2	58.2	7,010	10,755
Guatemala.....	1,000	1,208	-	-	15.7	14.9	-	15,700	17,991
Honduras.....	258	-	-	-	14.0	-	-	3,717	-
Mexico.....	7,501	8,894	9,880	12,100	9.0	10.8	11.1	67,523	96,203
Nicaragua.....	86	174	200	250	17.4	16.0	15.0	1,500	2,782
United States.....	92,699	85,996	81,817	80,736	25.0	35.7	40.6	2,315,554	3,056,861
Cuba.....	360	433	410	440	16.7	16.2	16.1	6,000	7,011
Estimated total 5/.....	103,330	98,530	95,880	97,750	-	-	-	12,435,000	1,218,000
EUROPE									
Albania.....	235	242	-	-	21.6	20.7	-	5,067	5,020
Austria.....	163	152	-	160	39.2	25.5	34.4	6,384	3,870
Bulgaria.....	2,035	-	-	-	17.5	-	-	35,657	-
Czechoslovakia.....	285	353	-	863	31.6	25.8	-	5/ 9,000	9,098
France.....	839	649	-	-	26.3	16.2	20.7	22,096	10,491
Germany.....	85	-	-	-	47.1	-	-	4,000	-
Greece.....	650	582	-	624	15.5	14.7	15.8	10,078	8,564
Hungary.....	2,924	-	-	-	31.5	-	-	92,007	-
Italy.....	3,250	3,260	-	3,300	31.5	28.0	35.8	113,000	90,980
Portugal.....	1,218	1,225	-	1,130	12.1	10.7	14.9	15,000	13,066
Rumania.....	1,870	-	-	-	17.4	-	-	172,000	-
Spain.....	1,094	926	-	990	28.4	21.5	25.9	31,076	19,920
Yugoslavia.....	6,615	-	-	-	26.7	-	-	176,600	-
Estimated total 5/.....	29,680	27,800	28,420	28,730	-	-	-	695,000	510,000
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia).....	10,000	7,550	9,000	-	17.0	15.0	-	170,000	113,000
ASIA									
Turkey.....	1,098	1,394	1,466	1,540	20.9	16.1	21.7	22,971	22,406
Burma.....	217	214	-	-	7.6	-	-	1,640	-
China.....	12,000	12,711	-	-	21.8	21.6	-	5/ 262,000	274,013
Manchuria.....	3,720	6,680	-	-	23.3	19.5	-	86,586	130,000
Indochina.....	1,053	-	-	-	21.2	-	-	22,365	-
India 2/.....	5,526	7,761	7,560	7,960	12.2	10.3	10.0	5/ 67,240	79,836
Indonesia.....	5,800	5,600	5,000	-	15.2	15.4	15.6	88,000	86,000
Pakistan 2/.....	811	986	1,000	960	17.7	16.9	16.7	14,360	16,688
Japan.....	128	133	149	160	24.2	21.7	25.1	3,094	2,881
Korea.....	321	-	-	-	13.0	-	-	4,177	-
Philippine Republic.....	1,765	1,820	2,246	2,355	8.9	10.1	10.1	15,715	18,340
Estimated total 5/.....	34,570	39,560	38,390	38,590	-	-	-	620,000	665,000
									</

AFRICA													
Belgian Congo.....	5/	179:	670:	830:	828:	5/	19.6:	17.9:	15.9:	14.7:	12,000:	13,230:	12,210:
Kenya g/.....		103:	136:	145:	154:		30.3:	24.9:	20.7:	35.7:	3,121:	3,393:	5,500:
Basutoland.....		350:	350:				8.1:	6.8:			2,822:	3,368:	
Egypt.....		1,599:	1,699:	1,535:	1,730:		39.5:	33.4:	33.3:	32.4:	63,229:	56,696:	59,500
French Morocco.....		1,112:	1,260:	1,290:	1,245:		7.6:	8.0:	4.7:	6.8:	8,505:	10,074:	8,500:
French West Africa.....	5/	1,732:					5/	12.4:			21,473:		
Madagascar.....		260:	214:	235:	220:		15.3:	11.6:	12.8:	14.1:	3,969:	2,472:	3,100:
Angola.....		1,435:					9.0:				12,899:	12,900:	
Southern Rhodesia g/.....		286:					22.1:	19.0:			5,923:	4,891:	
Union of South Africa.....		6,989:	7,106:	7,334:	6,510:		11.5:	12.2:	14.6:	10.4:	80,132:	86,699:	67,600:
Estimated total 6/.....		18,209:	19,170:	19,880:	19,610:						255,000:	290,000:	260,000:
SOUTH AMERICA													
Argentina.....		10,775:	5,363:	4,240:	3,536:		28.0:	28.9:	24.8:	22.7:	301,986:	155,012:	105,000:
Brazil.....		10,025:	10,866:	11,570:	11,740:		21.5:	20.7:	20.5:	19.4:	215,153:	224,400:	237,000:
Chile.....		110:	115:	137:	150:		22.7:	22.5:	20.4:	23.3:	2,496:	2,589:	2,800:
Colombia.....		1,360:	1,654:	1,610:			15.1:	15.4:	15.2:		19,511:	25,429:	24,420:
Uruguay.....	5/	425:	395:	460:	420:		12.2:	10.1:	13.3:	8.5:	5,188:	3,997:	6,100:
Estimated total 6/.....		24,930:	20,840:	20,590:	20,230:						575,000:	450,000:	415,000:
OCEANIA													
Australia.....		314:	222:	170:	170:		22.4:	26.6:	26.2:	23.6:	7,030:	5,899:	4,450:
New Zealand.....		7:	71:	61:	71:		45.4:	55.6:	60.0:	60.7:	318:	389:	360:
Estimated total 6/.....		325:	235:	180:	180:						7,430:	6,360:	4,890:
Estimated world total 6/.....		221,049:	213,690:	212,340:	212,870:						4,760,000:	5,275,000:	5,210,000:

1/ Years shown refer to years of harvest in the Northern Hemisphere. Harvests of Northern Hemisphere countries are combined with those of the Southern Hemisphere which follow; thus the crop harvested in the Northern Hemisphere in 1952 is combined with preliminary forecasts for the Southern Hemisphere harvest which begins early in 1953. 2/ Figures refer to harvested area as far as possible. 3/ Yield per acre calculated from acreage and production data shown, except for incomplete periods. 4/ Revised estimates for Northern Hemisphere countries; for the Southern Hemisphere, revised preliminary forecasts. 5/ Average of less than 5 years. 6/ Estimated totals, which in the case of production are rounded to millions, include allowances for any missing data for countries shown and for other producing countries not shown. 7/ Figures for the period shown are not strictly comparable since figures for 1950-52 include estimates for non-reporting areas, which were not included with earlier figures shown, but allowances were included in estimated total for Asia. 8/ Production on European holdings only. Allowances for native cultivation, not shown, are included in estimated total for Africa.

Foreign Agricultural Service. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign Governments, reports of United States Foreign Service officers, results of office research, or other information. Preliminary estimates for countries having changed boundaries have been adjusted to conform to present boundaries.

SOUTH AFRICA'S WOOL EXPORTS UP 11 PERCENT

Total exports of wool from South Africa during the 8 months (July-February) of the current season, at nearly 154 million pounds, were 11 percent larger than in the same period last season. About 8 percent of the total exports during the 8 months went to the United States compared with about 16 percent last year. Consular invoices certified for shipment to the United States indicate that about 3 million pounds of all types were exported to that country in February.

Demand was strong and prices were up from 2 1/2 to 5 percent over January levels at all 21 sales held during February. The over-all gain to the end of February was about 12 1/2 percent over opening sales in September 1952, and the firm market with slowly advancing prices carried over into early March.

Nearly all wool offered for sale during February was sold, however offerings were reduced to 92,977 bales compared with 112,521 bales in February 1952, reflecting in part heavier offerings in the early months of the season. Total offerings for the season through February amounted to 688,021 bales as against 661,140 bales during the same period last season. As a further indication of heavy early sales and possibly reduced output for the season only 24,627 bales had been received but not offered at auction to the end of February compared with 74,439 bales on the same date last season.

Exports of greasy and scoured wool for the season through February by country of destination are given in the table below.

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA: Wool exports by country of destination,
8-month period, July-February 1952 and 1953
(Greasy and scoured--actual weight)

Country	1952	1953	1953 as percent of 1952
	<u>Mil. lbs.</u>	<u>Mil. lbs.</u>	<u>Percent</u>
United Kingdom.....	31.1	47.0	151
France.....	22.9	25.6	111
Japan.....	5.5	10.6	103
Italy.....	17.3	19.8	114
Belgium.....	13.0	7.3	56
United States.....	21.9	12.3	56
Western Germany.....	15.6	24.9	160
Other countries.....	10.7	6.1	57
Total.....	138.0	153.6	111

ANGLO-URUGUAYAN MEAT
AGREEMENT SIGNED

The Ministry of Food of the United Kingdom has announced that a new contract for 1953, calling for delivery of 30,000 tons of carcass meat and 2,000 tons of canned corned meat from Uruguay was signed in Montevideo on March 27, 1953 by United Kingdom and Uruguayan representatives.

Under the contract the Uruguayan Government undertakes to sell to the United Kingdom during the calendar year 1953, not less than the above quantities at prices similar to those recently agreed between the United Kingdom and Argentina. The terms and conditions of the U.K.-Argentine agreement were published in Foreign Crops and Markets of January 19, 1953.

The 30,000 tons of carcass meat is to be supplied as 22,000 tons of beef, 2,000 tons of lamb, 3,000 tons of offal and 3,000 tons of manufacturing beef. Some shipments bought on provisional invoices before the signing of this contract have already been made and regular shipments are expected to begin to arrive in about a month's time.

AUSTRALIAN WOOL PRODUCTION
REVISED UPWARD

The Commonwealth Statistician in Australia has revised the December estimate of Australian wool production for the 1952-53 season upward to 1,175, million pounds from 1,150 million pounds. This compares with the original estimate of less than 1,100 million pounds made in July 1952 by the National Council of Woolselling Brokers and Australian Wool Growers' Council and the estimate of 1,165 million pounds published in the November 24, 1952 issue of Foreign Crops and Markets. If this new level is reached it will be a new record high, surpassing the previous peak reached in 1943-44 by 6 million pounds.

INDIA'S PEANUT PRODUCTION
ESTIMATE REVISED DOWNWARD

India's 1952-53 peanut crop is now placed at 3,241,280 short tons from 11,862,000 acres, according to the final official estimate. This represents a decline of 5 percent in production but an increase of 5 percent in acreage from the partially revised 1951-52 figures of 3,410,400 tons and 11,798,000 acres.

The acreage increase plus other favorable aspects had led to an early forecast of a 10-percent increase in production. Drought, however, reduced the crop in some important producing areas, particularly Hyderabad, Bombay and Madhya Pradesh. This decline was only partially counteracted by increases registered mainly in Madras, the major producing area, and Saurashtra.

CHINA VEGETABLE
OILSEED SITUATION 1/

The American Consulate General at Hong Kong does not anticipate important changes in 1953 Chinese (including Manchurian) production and exports of vegetable oils and oilseeds, assuming average weather conditions and no important political changes. Japan appears to be the only market with possibilities for important increases in Chinese exports during 1953, but even there prospects are by no means optimistic.

Production and exports of certain oilseeds during the past 2 years have been roughly estimated by the Consulate General on the basis of information available in Hong Kong. No adequate basis exists for the verification of such estimates, but they should serve as a useful guide in the absence of complete reports.

The following tabulation shows the Consulate General's estimates of production in 1951 and 1952 as compared with basic prewar statistics:

CHINA: Estimated oilseed production,
prewar, 1951 and 1952

Commodity	Unit	1931-37	1951	1952
Tung oil.....	1,000 short tons	132	100	94
Soybeans				
China Proper.....	1,000 bushels	<u>1/</u> 223,870	192,900	202,090
Northeast.....	1,000 bushels	<u>2/</u> 119,755	111,150	124,930
Rapeseed.....	1,000 short tons	2,726	3,055	3,210
Sesame seed.....	1,000 short tons	940	880	<u>3/</u> 855
Peanuts.....	1,000 short tons	3,020	2,480	2,370

1/ 1931-38. 2/ 1943. Authorities in the Northeast at present use 1943 as the prewar peak, but actually the average production during 1931-37 was 156.8 million bushels, according to Manchurian Government figures. 3/ Some trade sources maintain that there are indications of an increase from 1951.

Sources: 1931-37-Estimates of the National Agricultural Research Bureau; 1943 Northeast soybean estimate-Institute for Economic Research and Investigation of the Northeast Economic Council of the Chinese Nationalist Government; 1951 and 1952-Tentative estimates of the American Consulate General.

1/ A more extensive statement, based on a report dated March 10, 1953, by A.L. Peaslee and Y. Tung, American Consulate General, Hong Kong, will soon be published as a Foreign Agriculture Circular available from the Foreign Agricultural Service, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D.C.

Except for some very vague press reports, no estimate has been announced, official or otherwise, for tung oil, rapeseed and sesame seed in China. Soybeans are regarded by the Communist authorities as a grain crop. But official estimates for grain crops do not give separate estimates for soybeans. However, trade sources in Hong Kong are inclined to believe that tung oil production in recent years has declined in view of reduced exports and very large stocks accumulated in China.

The production of rapeseed, sesame seed and soybeans in China proper in 1951 and 1952 probably is smaller than the years immediately before the Communist domination but rapeseed production is still higher than the 1931-37 average production. This belief is based on the following facts: (1) There has been during the past 2 years a vigorous campaign for greater production of grain crops and cotton; (2) during the years of internal conflict before the establishment of the Communist regime many sections of the country were compelled to increase their oilseed production in order to be self-sufficient, and since then, soybeans from the Northeast and other oilseeds from North China have been more freely available in all parts of the country; (3) export outlets for most oils and oilseeds have been reduced; and (4) an oilseeds production increase has not been publicized by the Chinese Communist press.

Trade statistics are suppressed. There is little doubt, however, that oilseeds and oils are the richest of all Chinese exports in recent years. The following tabulation shows the Consulate General's estimate of exports of oilseeds and oils from China during 1951 and 1952:

CHINA: Estimated exports of oilseeds
and vegetable oils, 1951 and 1952

Commodity	Unit	1951	1952
Tung oil.....	Short tons	40,785	33,070
Soybeans.....	1,000 bushels	23,190	17,745
Rapeseed oil <u>1</u> /.....	Short tons	148	10,270
Sesame seed.....	Short tons	16,535	39,683
Sesame oil <u>2</u> /.....	Short tons	808	480
Peanut kernels.....	Short tons	44,000	66,000
Peanut oil.....	Short tons	27,560	20,945

1/ Recorded exports to Hong Kong. 2/ To Hong Kong, according to Hong Kong Trade Returns.

Source: American Consulate General, Hong Kong.

Soybeans are regarded by the Communist regime as one of the top-rung export commodities of China. They have been mentioned in a number of trade agreements with the Soviet bloc as well as with non-Communist countries. However, actual shipments in recent years have been small, although much better than during the abnormal years immediately before the Communist so-called "liberation" when the Northeast was the scene of fighting. While there have been considerable trade negotiations between China and some private Japanese interests and a "trade agreement" was concluded with certain Western German firms, the existing trade with these two former leading buyers is by no means near the prewar level.

FRENCH WEST AFRICA'S PALM PRODUCTION PROSPECTS NOT BRIGHT

No appreciable change in French West Africa's production of palm kernels and palm oil is anticipated in 1953, according to R.M. Sheehan, American Consulate General, Dakar. Efforts to replace old and low-producing palms and to establish regularly defined plantations have not been very successful. Of the 1.7 million acres estimated to be planted to palm trees in the Ivory Coast, only 37,000 are considered cultivated on a commercial scale. Many new plantings in cleared areas have suffered considerable loss from various causes, including damage by animals and the effects of parasitical diseases. Other plans for increasing production and lowering costs by the use of mechanized equipment have been temporarily abandoned for lack of funds.

Although palm kernels remained firm throughout January and February of this year at 61.50 to 69 Metropolitan francs per kilo (8.0 to 8.9 cents per pound) they are far below 1951 quotations of 80 francs (10.4 cents). Shea nut prices already have shown signs of weakening. Thus, taking into consideration all factors, present estimates of 1953 production of these 2 products are: palm kernels 65,000 to 70,000 short tons and shea nuts 13,000 tons.

The Government General in the past 2 years has been in the process of erecting 4 modern palm oil plants in Dahomey and one in the Ivory Coast. The Ivory Coast plant and one in Dahomey are now in operation. The remaining 3 should soon be in production. The combined yearly capacity of these plants is estimated at 16,500 tons.

Regardless of these establishments, no large scale increase in palm oil production is expected in the near future. This is due for the most part to a reluctance on the part of native growers to accept modern oil manufacturing methods. Many of them prefer to retain their yearly nut crop for producing oil by antiquated and costly methods.

On the assumption that all 4 refining plants will be operating in the very near future, and taking into consideration native production, Government sources state that an output of 38,580 tons of palm oil would be possible this year. A more realistic figure, however, would appear to be 15,000 to 20,000 tons. Between October and December, c.i.f. prices for palm oil at French ports dropped from the previous average of 87.50 to 79 Metropolitan francs per kilo (11.3 to 10.2 cents per pound). Consequently, total 1952 export figures, when available, are expected to show a decrease of about 4,000 tons compared with 1951.

Exports of palm kernels, crude palm oil and shea nuts during the first 9 months of 1952 were, respectively, as follows: 54,180, 7,458, and 18,322 tons. During the comparable period of 1951, exports amounted to 70,881 tons of kernels, 14,691 tons of crude palm oil and 12,963 tons of shea nuts.

FRENCH WEST AFRICA'S PEANUT CROP
TO BE SOLD BY YEAR'S END

French West Africa's 1952-53 peanut crop and crude oil output will undoubtedly be sold by the end of this year, reports R.M. Sheehan, American Consulate General, Dakar. The Federation is practically the only peanut producing area in the French Union and the total volume of oil equivalent produced from the crop is not enough to satisfy the over-all requirements of the Union.

However, there are several problems facing the peanut industry with no apparent solution. The demand for peanut oil is gradually diminishing in Metropolitan France owing to its high cost. Refined oil retails at 260 to 300 Metropolitan francs per liter (37.5 to 43.3 cents per pound) depending upon the quality. And these prices cannot be lowered because of the high cost of production, which results from the high prices paid for peanuts and because export taxes and customs duties account for 80 Metropolitan francs per liter (11.5 cents per pound) of refined oil. At the same time, the position of peanut oil refineries both in French West Africa and in France is precarious. At Dakar, even the present c.i.f. quotations for crude oil do not permit manufacturers to realize a normal profit and for the past 2 years only the larger companies have been meeting expenses.

The 1952-53 peanut season in French West Africa has been characterized by the rapid purchase of the crop. Indications are that the original estimate of 573,000 tons (unshelled) will be exceeded by possibly 10,000 to 20,000 tons, but commercialized productions still will be about 45,000 tons less than the previous season. (See Foreign Crops and Markets January 19, 1953.)

The 1951-52 carry-over of 33,000 tons on hand as of November 30, 1952, has been practically liquidated.

Of special interest this year has been the buying activities of the oil manufacturers of Dakar. Of the 444,362 tons of peanuts purchased in Senegal as of early March, 358,250 tons had been taken up by the local refineries through March 23. This compares with the 300,930 tons during all of last year. These mills are increasing their volume despite the fact that the c.i.f. peanut oil prices in France are down from the January-March 1952 average of 181 Metropolitan francs per kilo (23.5 cents per pound) to 174 francs (22.5 cents). Metropolitan France takes 90 to 95 percent of French West Africa's peanut oil and the remainder usually is shipped to Morocco or Algeria. The price of the French West Africa product usually precludes any foreign export market outlets.

Exports of this season's crop have been satisfactory so far. Shipments of shelled peanuts from Senegal and Soudan alone for the first 2 months amounted to 40,925 tons, including 23,568 tons of last season's carry-over. This represents an increase of about one thousand tons over the combined exports of all producing Territories for the same period of 1952. January and February exports of unshelled peanuts were 6,832 tons--a record high for any opening 2 months period and almost twice the volume in the comparable period of 1952. January-February exports of crude peanut oil totaled 10,604 tons, or only slightly below the same period for the exceptional year of 1951.

Exports during the first 9 months of 1952 were as follows with comparable 1951 figures in parentheses: shelled peanuts-189,510 tons (167,530), unshelled peanuts--22,800 (25,768), crude peanut oil-43,762 (44,810) and refined peanut oil-9,284 tons (6,806).

SOWING OF GRAIN COMMENCES IN THE SOVIET UNION

Sowing of spring grain crops--wheat, barley and oats--has been under way in the southern regions of the Soviet Union. The total area seeded by March 31 exceeded last year's figure for the same date by more than 1 million acres, according to official reports. Nevertheless, complaints were voiced in the Soviet press over the pace of the spring sowing and other field work, particularly in regard to the performance of tractors. Weather conditions during March in some important regions, as in the North Caucasus, for instance, were not favorable to field work.

IMPORTS OF RAW COTTON INTO BELGIUM BELOW LAST SEASON

Imports of raw cotton into Belgium during the first half of 1952-53 (August 1952-January 1953) totaled 204,000 bales (500 pounds gross), a decline of 70,000 bales from the quantity imported during the comparable period a year earlier. Of the 1952-53 imports, 70,000 bales were received from the United States, 42,000 bales from Mexico, 29,000 bales from the Belgian Congo, and 15,000 bales from Peru. This compares with 193,000 bales, 8,000 bales, 50,000 bales, and 14,000 bales, respectively, from these countries during the first half of the 1951-52 season.

The consumption of raw cotton in Belgian spinning mills during August 1952-January 1953 totaled 190,000 bales. This was about 67,000 bales less than the quantity consumed during the comparable period a year earlier but approximately 26,000 bales above consumption during the latter half of the preceding season. Consumption thus far in 1952-53 has been about 14,000 bales higher than the amounts imported and it appears that present stocks are equivalent to 3-4 months' supply at current rates of operation. Stocks on hand at the beginning of the present season (August 1, 1952), totaled 118,000 bales.

The production of fine yarn in Belgian spinning mills during January 1953 totaled 16.3 million pounds, a decline of 3.6 million pounds from January 1952 but slightly above the 3-year (1950-52) monthly average of 16.1 million pounds.

REDUCED COTTON ACREAGE EXPECTED IN TURKEY

A 10 to 15 percent reduction in the area being planted to cotton in Turkey is expected this year, according to a report from Laurell L. Scranton, Agricultural Attache, American Embassy, Ankara. Reasons given for the expected decrease in cotton acreage include the lower prices received for the 1952 crop, some shifting back to cotton-grain rotation in the Cukarova region where grain acreage had previously been diverted to cotton, some diversion of cotton land to rice in southern Turkey where restrictions on rice planting have been relaxed, and the possibility of some diversion of cotton land to tobacco because of favorable tobacco prices currently available.

The 1952 crop of about 700,000 bales (of 500 pounds gross) from 1,660,000 acres was the largest on record. Estimates of the crop by various official sources range from 590,000 to 785,000 bales. Estimates of stocks on hand July 31, 1952, range from 50,000 to 250,000 bales. The most recent estimate derived from trade sources indicates an available export surplus of 550,000 to 600,000 bales for the 1952-53 year after deducting about 250,000 bales for consumption and 50,000 for minimum end-season carry-over. This would indicate a 1952-53 supply of 850,000 to 900,000 bales.

TURKEY: Exports of cotton by countries of destination; annual 1948-51; August-February 1951-52 and 1952-53

(Bales of 500 pounds gross)

Country of destination:	Year beginning August 1					
	1948	1949	1950	1951	August-February 1951-52	1952-53
	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000
	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales	bales
Austria.....	1/	1	4	2	2/	4
Czechoslovakia.....	23	24	27	20	11	14
Finland.....	3	5	8	1/	1/	9
France.....	13	35	25	61	9	55
West Germany.....	33	80	167	131	96	97
Hungary.....	1/	2	11	16	4	15
Italy.....	1	17	34	9	5	41
Netherlands.....	11	1	4	1	1	1
Poland.....	9	1/	3	2	1/	3
Rumania.....	4	1/	1/	2	1/	0
Sweden.....	9	1/	2/	1/	1/	2
United Kingdom.....	4	22	32	9	5	2
Other countries.....	14	22	3/ 34	8	2	8
Total.....	129	209	349	261	133	251

1/ If any, included in other countries. 2/ Less than 500 bales. 3/ Japan 16.

Compiled from Statistique Mensuelle du Commerce Extérieur and official reports.

Exports during August-February 1952-53 totaled 251,000 bales, compared with 133,000 for a similar period a year ago and 261,000 for the entire 1951-52 year. France, Italy, Hungary, and Finland accounted for most of the increase thus far this season. However, Germany is the principal export market again this year as may be noted on the table above. Most of Turkey's cotton exports in recent years have been facilitated by means of trade agreements, barter and clearing (financial) arrangements. A number of agreements have been proposed recently or are now under negotiation with Japan, Italy, Yugoslavia, Hungary, France, and possibly others. The large exports to Germany each year are stimulated by heavy bilateral trade under trade agreements or clearing arrangements.

Prices of Turkish cotton at Izmir and Adana in recent weeks have averaged slightly lower than those for American cotton in southern markets. The Turkish qualities quoted are longer in staple than 15/16-inch. On April 2 the quotations for Acala I at Izmir and at Adana were equivalent to 35.96 and 31.91 U.S. cents a pound, respectively, against the Houston-Galveston-New Orleans average of 32.68 cents for American Middling 15/16-inch for the same date. No export taxes are in effect in either country.

